

**FRESNO, CA** - Today, Congressman Jim Costa, D-Fresno, lead a press conference calling on Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to support continued funding for high speed rail in next year's state budget. As the final weeks of debate between the Legislature and the Governor for the state budget near, there is a need to fund this critical project to continue the momentum and progress recently achieved.

"It's clear that the California congressional delegation is highly supportive of seeing high speed rail funded in next year's state budget," said Costa. "High speed rail is a critical need for our state, and especially for our Valley. Governor Schwarzenegger needs to be able to provide transportation alternatives for the state, and the time is now for him to take a stand."

A bi-partisan letter was delivered by Costa that he co-signed with other members of the California congressional delegation to the governor following the press conference. The letter urged the governor to support an adequate level of funding for the California High Speed Rail Authority for the coming year.